GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3108
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
BRGF
Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted or proposes to conduct a survey in regard to works being executed in the districts receiving the Backward Region Grant Fund;
(b) if so, the details/outcome thereof;
(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the proposal to reorganise the district component thereof is likely to be implemented without a survey; and
(d) the extent to which the balanced growth of the country has been ensured and poverty alleviated through Backward Region Grant Fund and the details of success achieved in this regard along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (d): An independent review-cum-evaluation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme was undertaken by the World Bank in eight States in July 2009. The Mission in its report noted that the BRGF has stimulated a process of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) strengthening, particularly in poor States and Districts and laid the foundation for achieving several of its objectives.

The erstwhile Planning Commission had undertaken an evaluation study on BRGF covering the period 2006-07 to 2010-11, which was carried out by M/s Institute of Human Development, New Delhi in 16 States. The main findings of the study relating to works were that overall amount of grants is too small to meet the infrastructural deficits of the backward regions and efforts should be made to encourage the execution of big projects with long-term and greater socio-economic impacts instead of diffusing the BRGF resources on all kinds of works.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has sanctioned an evaluation study on BRGF Programme to inter-alia review the institutional structure, assess the quality and usage of various assets created, the capacity of PRIs to maintain created assets etc.

The BRGF Programme has been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government with effect from the financial year 2015-16. This has been done in view of the enhanced fiscal space made available to the States by the Fourteenth Finance Commission award on account of higher devolution of funds to the States from 32% to 42% of the Centre's net tax receipts.

*****